

WHITTIER - Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, (CA-39) joined by students and teachers from Katherine Edwards Middle School, presented a check for \$150,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier on Thursday. The funds secured by Congresswoman Sánchez are part of a three-year federal grant through the Department of Education to fund a Boys & Girls facility at Katherine Edwards Middle School.

“This funding is exactly why I fight so hard to get federal dollars back to the 39th District,” said Congresswoman Sánchez. “The Boys & Girls Club has helped so many young people in its history, and I am very pleased I could help in continuing their mission of keeping kids away from drugs and alcohol, fostering healthy lifestyles and ensuring academic excellence.”

The funds secured by Congresswoman Sánchez will be paid over three years, and will help keep the critical after-school program alive. The Boys & Girls Club of Whittier opened the extension club in September 2003 to accommodate extra students in the area where no other after-school programs exist.

“The mission of the Boys & Girls Club is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, so they can realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens,” said Executive Director Samantha Ridout. “Thanks to Congresswoman Sánchez hundreds of Whittier-area students will have a Boys & Girls Club to come to.”

Daily attendance is nearly 110 students from sixth to eighth grade. The Club offers the students the opportunity to participate in after-school sports, social recreation and homework assistance. Annual membership fees are \$15 which entitles kids to participate at both Katherine Edwards Middle School and the main Clubhouse on Greenleaf Avenue.